(from Iranian side) and a consortium from Indian side [consisting of Ashok Leyland Project Services (ALPS), IRCON and RITES] on 4.1.2003 in connection with construction of Chahbahar-Bam Railway line (600 kilometers) and development of Port at Chahbahar. IRCON International Limited has been pursuing the Railway line project to be constructed through the medium of a Joint Venture Company to be incorporated in Iran with 50% participation of an Iranian Railway Company (nominated by Iranian Government) and 50% by Indian consortium members (ALPS-IRCON-RITES). A supplementary MoU was signed in August 2004 whereby a traffic study was to be conducted by a jointly nominated consultant. The study and evaluation revealed that the proposed Build-Own-Transfer (BOT) model was not found viable. Therefore, a suggestion was made by the Indian consortium for doing the said project on Build-Lease Transfer (BLT) basis. It was jointly agreed in May 2008 during the first meeting of Iran-India Joint Working Group on Railway Line in Tehran that Iran will study BLT model proposed by the Indian consortium instead of BOT model earlier envisaged and will submit the relevant response. The final decision on the link will be taken by the Iranian authorities.

The Chahbahar-Bam Link will help in establishing multi-modal link to Russia *via* Iran and will provide Indian goods access to Central Asia.

Computerized reservation facility

†130. SHRI MOTILAL VORA:
MS. SUSHILA TIRIYA:

Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) the number of railway stations where facilities have been provided to make the reservation convenient for the railway passengers to travel to and fro;

(b) the number of railway stations in the country where computerized reservation facility is available; and

(c) the steps being taken by Government to make available computerized reservation facility in other stations?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI R. VELU): (a) and (b) Computerised Reservation facilities are available at 1297 railway stations.

(c) The facility of Computerised Reservation has been sanctioned at 944 more railway stations of Indian Railways.

Dudhnoi-Depa rail project

131. SHRI THOMAS SANGMA: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) whether a project connecting Dudhnoi and Depa in the State of Meghalaya, a stretch of 15.5 kilometre was sanctioned as early as in 1989;

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.